

McCann's Raimer gets 1,000 points

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Staff reports

NORTH ADAMS -- Ben Raimer needed 39 points to reach 1,000 for his career. With 5:32 left in McCann's win, Cam Skiffington found Raimer on a back-door route and Raimer hit the layup and drew a foul.

He swished the free-throw, then smiled, as he had just scored his 1,000th point. The Hornets defeated Smith Vocational 76-48 to improve to 7-7 on the year and 6-2 in the Tri-County.

He is only the sixth Hornet in school history to accomplish the feat.

Raimer knew that the next two games after this were on the road, and he wanted to obtain the milestone at home.

"We talked about it the night before," coach Justin Kratz said. "He told me he wanted to get to it in front of the home crowd and he did."

Raimer netted 26 in the first half as the Hornets opened up a sizable lead. His final point of the night just so happened to be his 1,000th, and he gave a lot of the credit to his teammates.

"Cam knew I was just three away, and he hit me with a perfect pass," Raimer said. "It's what the guys did all night. They were good at finding the open men and helping me out."

Kratz saw it a different way.

"Every defense [Smith Voc.] was throwing at Ben wasn't working," Kratz said. "Then they were able to get on him a little, which opened it up for his teammates. Ben would find them, which forced [Smith] to start paying attention to everyone. Then Ben was open again, and he got it."

McCann opened the game on an 11-1 run, which allowed the Hornets to start pressing, something they kids wanted to do all night.

"I told them they have to give me a few good defensive stands before I let them press," Kratz said. "When we were up by 10 early, I called a timeout and could see the smirks on their faces, so I let them press and they did a great job the rest of the game."

The Hornets have a tough test at St. Mary's on Thursday at 7 p.m.

"It will really give us a boost if we can get a win over them," Raimer said.



McCann's Ben Raimer (15) lets out a jubilant cheer immediately following his made free-throw as teammate Cam Skiffington looks on. The reason for the excitement? Raimer had just notched his 1,000th career point in the Hornets' 76-48 win over Smith Vocational on Monday. (Gillian Jones/North Adams Transcript)